TRANSFORMERS

REDEMPTION

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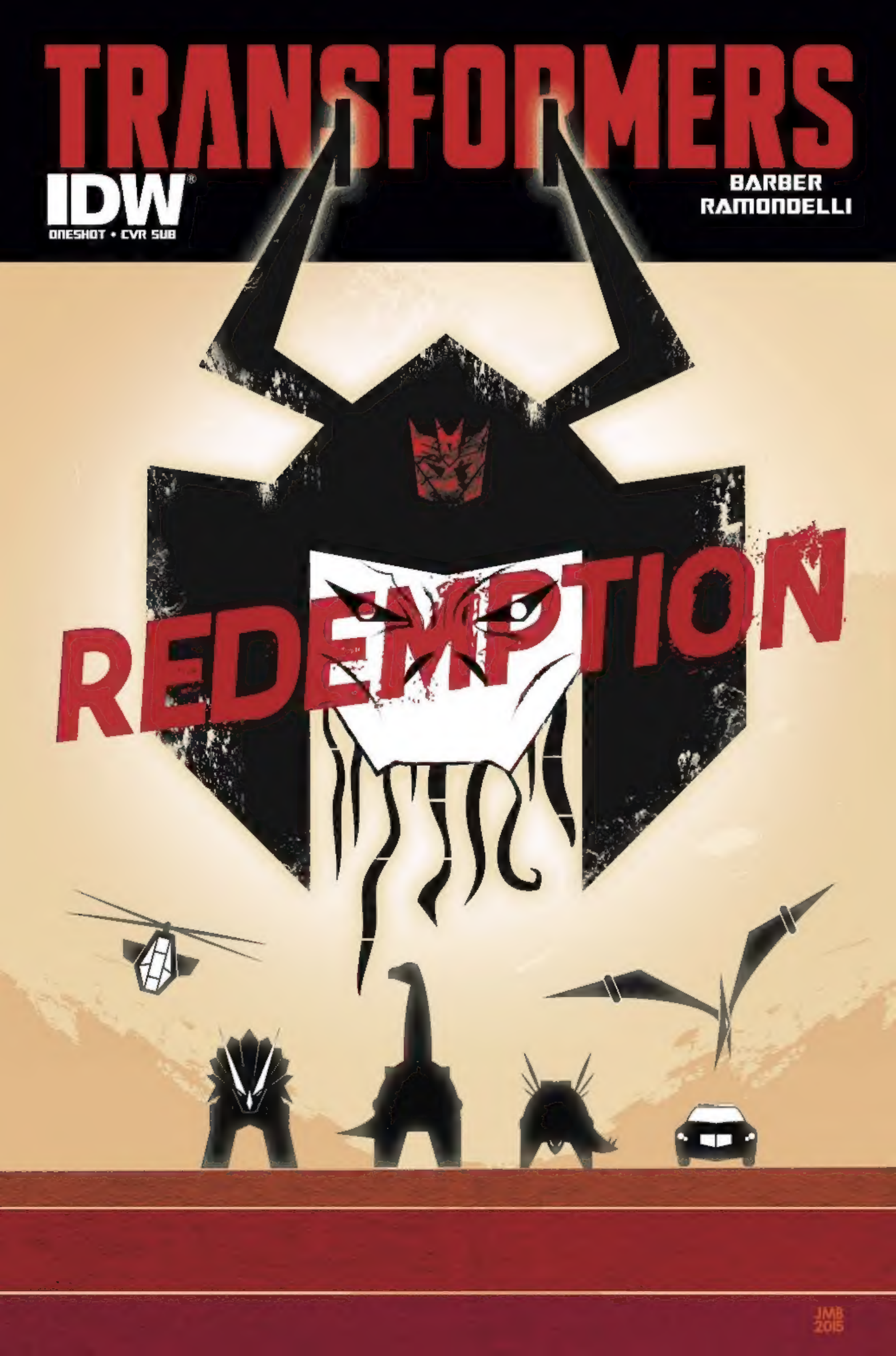

TRANSFORMERS
REDEMPTION

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PRIME!
PRIME, PRIME, PRIME—
—IF I HEAR THAT ONE MORE TIME—
CALM DOWN, MATE.
SETTLE.
SLUG HERE, HE'S HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH, TOO MUCH—YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
UH.
SPREADIN' LIES 'BOUT PRIME ON MY STREETS, ARE YA?!
LET ME TELL YA THE TRUTH!
LET ME TELL YOU THE TRUTH—
—YOU'RE GONNA BACK OFF!
AND STOP TALKING TRASH ABOUT THE PRIME!
WHO DID THAT—

—WHO'S FIXIN' TA DIE TONIGHT?!
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA—
—NOBODY'S FIXING ANYTHING!
C'MON, MATE.
WE GOT A TABLE WAITIN' FOR US AT MACCADAM'S.
YEAH. YEAH.
I SHOWED THEM, HUH?
SURE DID. LET'S GO.
THAT'S IT!
I'VE HAD IT WITH THIS NIGHTMARE WORLD!
STERLING, IT'S JUST ANOTHER—
IT'S ALWAYS "JUST ANOTHER"! WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME...
"...WE SHOULD GO HOME."
I SHOWED THEM.
YEAH, YOU—
SNARL!
...
THERE YOU ARE. NOW THE NIGHT CAN GET GOING.
MACCADAM'S
GEE, SLUG. IT'S GETTIN' KINDA LATE.

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I WAS HAVIN' SOME TROUBLE.

BUT I'M A DINOBOT.
I LIKE TROUBLE.
I LIKE GETTIN' IN IT...
...AND I LOVE GETTIN' OTHER FOLKS IN IT.
DAMMIT, SLUG—CALM DOWN!
I'LL CALM HIM DOWN.
HE DIDN'T MEAN IT, MAN—HE WAS KIDDIN'!
WAZZPINATOR HATES WEEKENDS.
NOT AGAIN.
GNARL—DON'T YOU DO THIS, TOO.
GRRRR!
DINOBOTS ARE ALL—
WAK
—UNF! ALL THE SAME.
I HAD FRIENDS THAT WOULD STAND BY ME, RIGHT OR WRONG.
OW!
UNH!
LOTS OF TIMES, WRONG.
DINOBOT—

—NEXT PUNCH GETS YOU A WEEK BEHIND BARS.
THEY GAVE BARRICADE A BADGE, AND NOW HE THINKS HE'S A COP. BUT HE'S THE SAME THING HE ALWAYS WAS...
...A DECEPTICON.
HORNS DOWN, BIG GUY.
YOU KIDDING?
I'M JUST GETTING WARMED UP.
RAAGH!
SLUG— IT'S OVER.
TZZZAT
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LEARN?
I TRIED LEARNING ONCE...

A LONG TIME AGO...
BACK IN THE GLADIATOR PITS, I LEARNED WHAT LIFE WAS ALL ABOUT.
ME ON ONE SIDE...
EVERYBODY ELSE ON THE OTHER.
SIMPLE.
A LESSON EVEN I COULD HANDLE.
I LIVE.
YOU DIE.
I LEARNED A LOT.
MOSTLY I LEARNED...
...I DON'T LIKE LEARNING.

AH!
WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE SOBER, SLUG.
NOT MY FAVORITE PLACE.
I NOTICED. THEY SAY EVERY-BODY RISES TO THEIR LEVEL.
YOURS IS THE BOTTOM OF A BOTTLE.
IT'S FUNNY. BACK IN THE WAR, WE REALLY DID FEAR THE DINOBOTS.
NOW YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER 'BOT IN THE WILDERNESS, REFUSING TO ADMIT THE WAR'S OVER.
YEAH, YEAH.
HOW LONG YOU GONNA SPEECHIFY BEFORE YOU LET ME GO?
SO YOU CAN GET BACK TO WASTING YOUR POTENTIAL?
PRIME WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU.
RAHH!
PZZZZT
MADE YOU FLINCH.
I HAVE AN OFFER.
WE...

WE HAVE AN OFFER
MEET MY CAMIEN FRIENDS. STRAFE—
GREETINGS TO YOU
AND SWIFT
THERE'S AN OBJECT WE NEED TRANSPORTED
WE, MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF FLAME— VIEW THIS OBJECT WITH A CERTAIN SOLEMNITY
A RELIGIOUS DOOHICKEY?
IT IS VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF CAMINUS AND CYBERTRON
WE NEED TO GET THE PACKAGE TO THE REGION OF ALYON
AND WE NEED TO DO SO WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF STARSCREAM WINDBLADE
OR OPTIMUS PRIME
MY THREE FAVORITE PEOPLE
SO, BARRICADE WHAT TURBOFOX DO YOU HAVE IN THIS RACE?
HE'S DOING IT FOR ME
HE TELLS ME YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS SPENT TIME IN THE OUTBACK
I'M DOING IT FOR THE FUTURE OUR FUTURE
THEN HE PROBABLY TOLD YOU I GOT NO LOVE FOR CAMIENS OR DECEPTICONS.
OR THE FUTURE
HOW ABOUT THIS?
GOLD GHANIX PRE WAR MINT
BARRICADE TELLS ME HE'D BEEN COLLECTING THEM UNDER THE TABLE LIKE SINCE HE BECAME POLICE
I WAS KINDA INTRIGUED

YOU SAID YES?!
WEL... VERY NTRIGUED
YOU MADE A DEA... WITH A CORRUPT COP!
YEAH—I DIDN'T THINK BARRICADE HAD IT IN H M
THAT'S NOT MY—
WE USED TO BE HEROES!
NO. WE USED TO BE THE GUYS THE HEROES SENT IN SO THEY COULD STAY HEROES.
WE WERE JUST WHAT PR ME CALLED US—GUNS
MIGHT AS WELL MAKE SOME BUCKS OUTTA THE DEA...
ANYWAY WE'LL LEAD BARR CADE, SWFT AND STRAFE OUTSIDE THE CITY AND LET THE COPS KNOW WHAT'S HAPPEN NG
HUH.
THAT'S... NTERESTNG.
HEH
THE COPS KILL THEM AND WE'VE UNCOVERED A VAST NTERPLANETARY CONSPIRACY
YOU WANTED TO BE A HERO RIGHT?
PLUS— EVEN IF THAT IDIOT SURVIVES HE CAN'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THE MONEY WITHOUT INCRIMINATING HIMSELF
A BRIEFCASE OF SHAN X AND WE GET A CORRUPT DECEPT CON KILLED?
NOW THAT'S WHAT BEING A D NOBOT IS ALL ABOUT

DECEPTICON DISTRICT, THE NEXT DAY.
BARRICADE, CAN WE TRUST THESE DINOBOTS?
LIKE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL? PRIMUS, NO
BUT I DO TRUST THOSE IDIOTS NEED MONEY
YOU GOT US PEGGED, THAT'S FOR SURE
YOU'RE EARLY.
YOU NEVER HEARD THE PHRASE "PUNCTUAL AS A DINOBOT"?
NICE TRUCK.
THE CARGO'S INSIDE
MIND IF I TAKE A LOOK?
YOU'RE BEING PAID NOT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.
TRUST ME CYBERTRONIAN— YOU'RE BETTER OFF.
EASIEST WAY TO DISTRACT SOMEBODY IS TO TELL THEM EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE DOING
DINOBOTS AIN'T GOING NOWHERE— EVEN IF WE'RE PULLING A SCAM— WITHOUT KNOWING THE SCORE
AND WHAT A SCORE IT IS...
SPARKS
THE ESSENCE OF CYBERTRONIAN LIFE.
AND CYBERTRON HASN'T SEEN A NEW ONE...
NOT FOR FOUR MILLION YEARS.

BOTH SIDES HOARDED SPARKS DUR NG THE WAR
THEY WERE THE ONL WAY TO MAKE NEW SOLDIERS
AND WE NEEDED NEW SOLDIERS.
BJT NOW, N PEACE.
A DOZEN L VES COULD BE MORE THAN FODDER
YOU ALWAYS THIS TALKATIVE?
I TOOK A LOT OF L VES N THE WAR.
THAT'S WHAT WARS DO.
THAT'S WHAT GUNS DO.
I KILLED AN AWFUL LOT OF GUYS THAT LOOKED AN AWFUL LOT L KE H M. AND STILL BARRICADE TRUSTED ME.
I UNDERSTAND I GUESS.
CYBERTRON'S BEEN AN INHOSPITABLE MESS FOREVER.
BARR CADE TH NKS HE CAN CHANGE T
HE TRUSTED ME TO DO AND DIE BUT NOT WITH THE REASON WHY
I UNDERSTAND THAT, TOO.
I EXTINGUISH SPARKS.
I DON'T PLANT THEM.
WHAT'D YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?
STRAFE.
STRAFE, GET READY
SOMEBODY'S COMING

WHERE? I DON'T SEE ANYONE.
WHAT THE HELL
MAYBE AN OLD DINOSAUR CAN CHANGE
MIGHT AS WELL FIND OUT
THE BADGELESS!
NEW PLAN?
THINGS CHANGE, SLUDGE.
DINOBOTS— CHARGE!
BARRICADE WE HAVE TO HELP
NO— STAY OUT OF LINE-OF-SIGHT SWIFT
"...THE BADGELESS ARE STARSCREAM'S SECRET POLICE"

DISARMED ONE!
HA HA HA!
YAAHH!
"IF THEY SEE US, WE'LL BE REPORTED AS OUTLAWS."
TS-7 TO BASE
— IT'S THE DINOBOTS, SIR
"...WE'LL NEVER BE ALLOWED BACK INTO THE CITY
"THE DINOBOTS.
"...ARE TAKING THAT HIT FOR US."
THEY'RE CLEAR.
OKAY, GUYS. AS OF NOW THE DINOBOTS ARE WANTED COP-KILLERS.
WE CAN NEVER RETURN TO ICACON.
...WHY? WHY DID WE DO IT?
SO THE HEROES CAN BE HEROES
'TS WHAT WE DO.

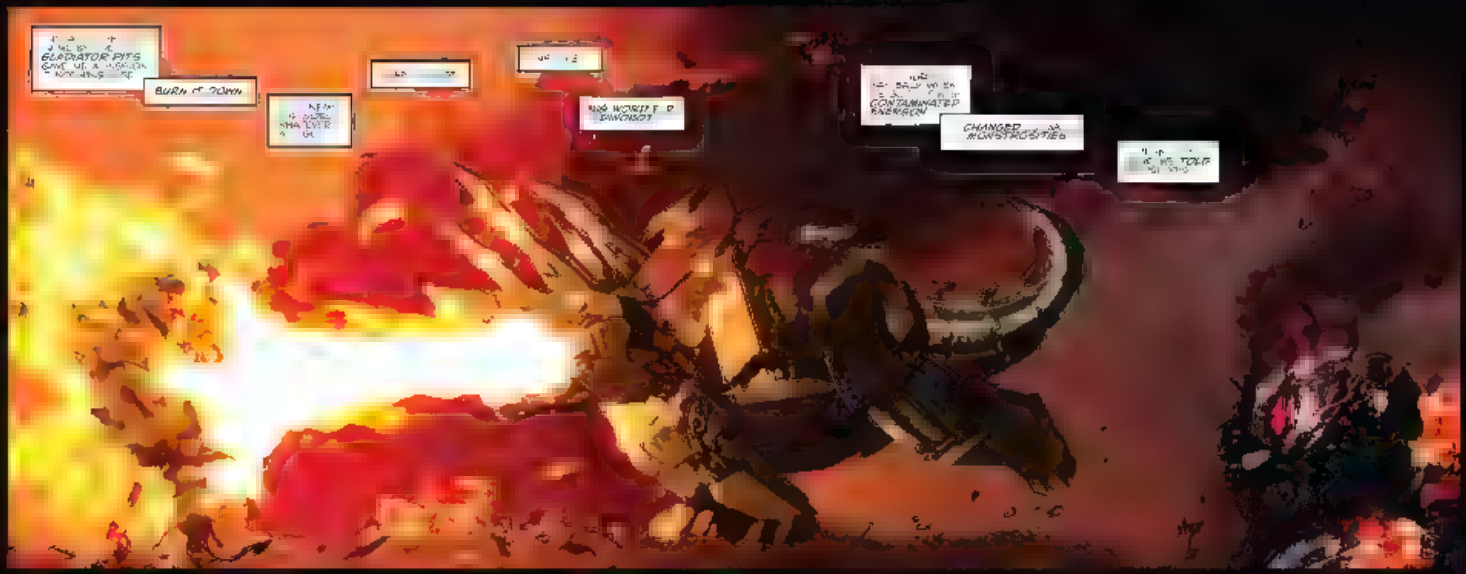
THE SEA OF RUST.
GAH!
I CAN'T STAY AIRBORNE
ALL THIS DUST IS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE.
I DON'T USED TO BE THIS BAD OUT HERE
THE WORLD IT'S OUT OF CONTROL.
SOMEHOW STARSCREAM KNEW NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRIED TO KEEP IT SECRET, HE FOUND OUT AND HE'S NOT GOING TO LET US—
WE HAVE TO SUCCEED, BARRICADE.
THE DINOBOTS SACRIFICED THEMSELVES, WITHOUT EVEN UNDERSTANDING OUR MISSION
WE CARRY ON FOR THEM.
DON'T LAY THAT SCRAP ON ANYBODY
CARRY ON FOR YOURSELF.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED
THERE'S A SINGULARITY HERE, WHERE THE CRYSTAL CITY COLLAPSED. IT'S WREAKED—
PTUE
—HAVOC WITH THE WEATHER. DUSTY
MY OLD ROOMMATE HEARD ABOUT SOME CAMIENS THAT LIVE OUT HERE.
THEY'D HAVE TO BE IDIOTS.
THIS IS THE UGLIEST SPOT ON CYBERTRON.

" AND THAT'S SAYING A LOT "
THANKS FOR WHAT YOU DID BACK THERE.
GOT LUCKY I SAW THAT BADGELESS
SURE
HM I DIDN'T PEG YOU FOR A BLADE GIRL, STRAFE
BLADE WOMAN
RANGED WEAPONS ARE RARE ON CAMINUS. THE ENERGON CRISIS.
NOT ENOUGH POWER FOR BLASTERS.
I PREFER UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL, ANYWAY
I BET YOU—
AH!
SLISS
STRAFE!
I'M FINE SOMETHING SCRATCHED ME THROUGH THE DUST!
DINOBOTS— WE GOT COMPANY!

I SEE HIM.
CHUKK
THERE'S ONE LESS COMPANY NOW
NICE MOVE, STRAFE.
I'D BE NICER IF WE KNEW HE WAS ALONE
CAN'T SEE ANYTHING N THIS MURK
SNARL, WATCH THE PERIMETER
CAN YOU I.D. HIM?
SHUK
LOOKS LIKE A SWEEP
THEY HIT THE PLANET A COUPLE YEARS BACK.
THEY ALL DIED BUT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY MESSED WITH THIS ONE POST-MORTEM
NNG!
GHAK

GUYS! HE'S NOT ALONE!
RAGH!
HOW MANY YOU COUNT?
ENOUGH.
SLUDGE- KEEP THE TRUCK SAFE!
SURE...
I GOT A PLAN
STRATCH
FROOSH
SWEFT, IF YOU DON'T
RRGH!
-MIND
SKREEEE
ALREADY ON IT
-ME THE PRIME SAYS-
VRRROOW
-ROLL OUT!

GET READY TO...
...TO...
THEY'RE RUNNING
THEY'RE SCARED.
BUT OF WHAT?
NO... "OF WHO?"
THERE IN THE DUST
I SEE 'EM.
THEY'RE NOT COMING AT US. SO LET'S LEAVE THEM ALONE
THOSE YOUR CAMIEN SETTLERS?
I GUESS SO
WELL, MAYBE THEY AIN'T IDIOTS
...MAYBE THERE'S JUST SOME THINGS HERE WORSE'N US.
INDEED THERE ARE...
...FOLLOW THE TRUCK, MY SWEEPS.
IT HOLDS SOMETHING OF VALUE.


GLADIATOR PITS
BURN IT DOWN
CONTAMINATED ENERGON
CHANGED MONSTROSITIES

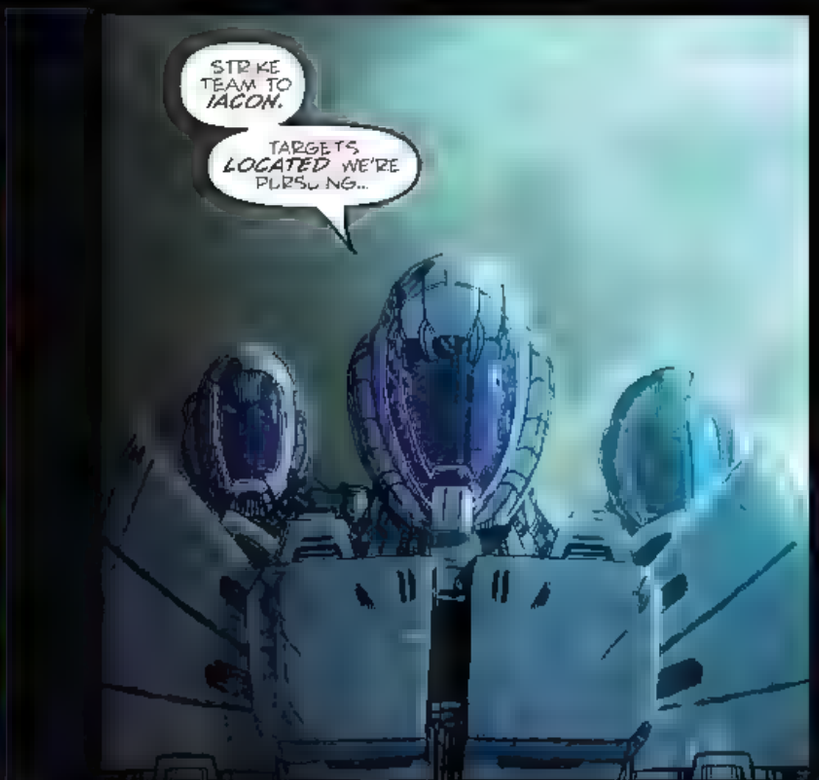
AFTERWARDS I DID WHAT I HAD TO—
—TO NOT WAKE UP FROM THE DREAM.
WHERE...
..WHERE ARE WE?
G.P.S. SAYS IT'S PREATORUS WHARF
..SO COLD SO EMPTY
—REMINDS ME OF HOME
CAMINUS SOUNDS LIKE MY KIND OF PLACE.
IT'S BETTER NOW. BUT WE WENT SO LONG WITH NO ENERGY, NO HOPE
EH
..YOU GET USED TO THAT

UH-HUH
SELF-PITY AND ENGEX, SLUG.
WHAT WAS THAT, BARRICADE?
I SAID YOU'RE LIVING OFF OF –
WHOA!
SKREEE
THE SURFACE TOTALLY CHANGED
IT'S, UH, EXTREMELY SLICK, NOW
NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE
ODD. BUT THEN, YOURS IS AN ODD PLANET
ER... WHAT'S YOUR FRIEND SIGNALING BACK THERE?
MORE GUESTS.
TURBOFOXES.
RAN INTO SOME MUTANT ONES OUT HERE BEFORE.
BUT LOOKS LIKE THEY GREW BLASTERS SINCE THEN.
AGGH!!
SLUG!

WELL, I'M FEELING LIKE MOVING IT, SLUG!
I DON'T LIKE GETTING BIT BY
WELL, ANYTHING.
WHAM

I CAN SEE WHY EVERYBODY STICKS TO THE CITY.
NONE OF THIS STUFF IS PROPERLY MAPPED, IS IT?
C'MON WE'VE BEEN BUSY
RIGHT BUT THE ZOMBIE SWEEPS NOW TURBOFOXES WITH EMOTIONS AND GUNS

THIS HAS INTENTIONALITY
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A BEAT COP NOT THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE
SOMEBODY'S AFTER US, SLUG


STRIKE TEAM TO IACON.
TARGETS LOCATED WE'RE PURSUING..

". AND THEY'VE ALREADY TAKEN A BEATING."
PULL OVER— I CAN DRIVE.
I'M FINE.
YOU'RE HURT
NO WORSE THAN YOU
BUT I KNOW I CAN TAKE T
HA YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE, SLUG
WHAT?
YOU SOUND LIKE ONE OF THOSE LOVEBIRDS OUT THERE
SWIFT— TAKE A BREAK.
YOU TOOK A BAD HIT BACK THERE
JUST AN EMBARRASSING ONE
WE NEED EYES N THE SKY AND T'S SWOOP'S TURN TO REST
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF
DISGUSTING.
YOU'RE NO PRIZE YOURSELF
WHAT? I MEAN— BARRICADE'S A DECEPTICON
THEY'RE THE BAD GUYS I DEDICATED MY LIFE TO KILLING THEM AND NOW THEY'RE.
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
SWIFT TOLD ME DECEPTICONS FOUGHT FOR EQUALITY
THAT SEEMS REASONABLE
I DON'T LIKE THE ANIMOSITY TOWARD THE PRIME BUT IF THEY'RE GOING TO DO GOOD.
WHO AM I TO PUSH MY BELIEFS ON THEM?
THE DECEPTICONS DID A LOT OF BAD THINGS IN THE WAR
AND YOU DIDN'T?
IT'S NOT THE SAME.
IT'S THE SAME

TYGER PAX:
SLUG..
..THAT WHAT I THINK?
CONTAMINATED ENERGON.
LOOKS LIKE THE STUFF THAT TURNED US INTO MONSTERS
UH, SO OUR NEW FRIENDS ARE CLEAR, WE GOT BETTER
MAYBE IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT BLACK METAL JUST STAY AWAY FROM THOSE FLOES IN THE FIGHT
WHAT? WHAT FIGHT?
THIS ONE
D NOBOTS— WE'RE ALMOST TO ALYON, SO STAY ALIVE!

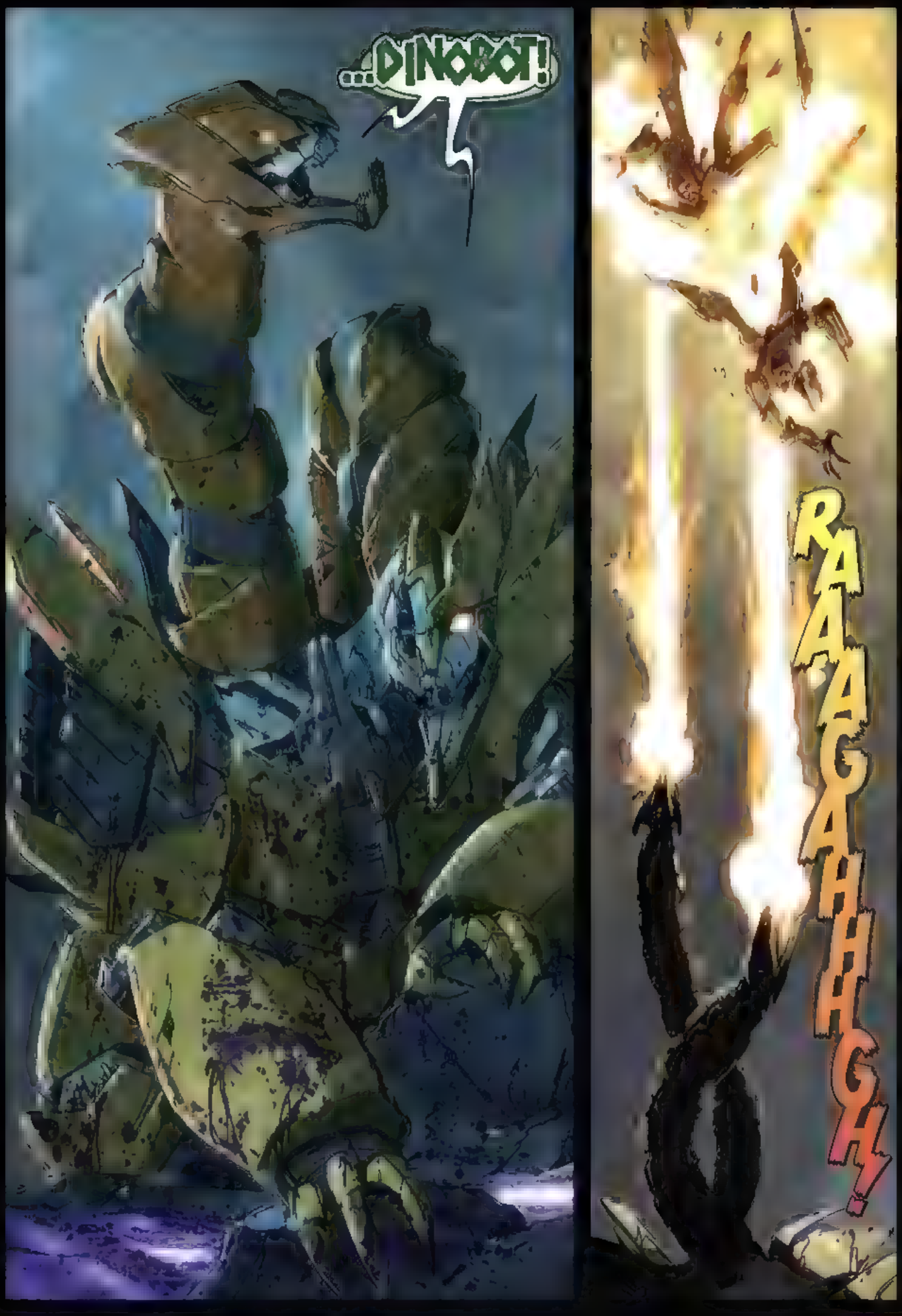
THAT'S GOOD ADVICE REGARDLESS OF GEOGRAPHY
THESE ARE MORE OF THOSE WHATCHAMACALLITS, AREN'T THEY?
SWEEPS!
SEE I'M MAKING A SWEEPING MOTION WITH MY TAIL?
IT'S A JOKE I'M WORKING ON. MAYBE YOU GOTTA BE A DINOBOT TO APPRECIATE IT
AAHG!
NO!
NOT THIS! LET ME LIVE!
PLEEAAA—
-EAAHHHH!
HUH
THE CONTAMINATED ENERGON'S NO JOKE.
JUST PUSH ON!
WE'RE ALMOST THROUGH!
YOU'RE EXACTLY THROUGH...

-N THE NAME OF STARSCREAM THE FIRST YOU'RE UNDER ARREST
BADGELESS— BRING THEM N PEACEFULLY
I DON'T THNK HE MEANT THAT
AGGH!
GET PAST THEM, BARRICADE—
-GET THE SPARKS TO ALYON!
THE SPARKS...
-YOU KNEW?
SLUG, YOU BIG MESS
YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE FGHT NG FOR.
I'LL DO T, SLUG I LL CARRY ON— FOR ALL OF YOU

NO.

YOU—YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE!
OH, I DO.
BLUDGEON THAT'S YOUR NAME, RIGHT?
A BOT IN THE WILDERNESS, REFUSING TO ADMIT THE WAR'S OVER
YOU KNOW WHO I AM.
SWIFT... I'M SORRY...
I TRIED
I'M SO SORRY
THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU.

BARRICADE!
THE SPARKS
WHAT WHAT ARE YOU...?
A SCIENTIST.
AND YOU...
...YOU ARE ABOUT TO PROVE A FASCINATING TEST SUBJECT.
I KNOW WHAT THE TOXIC BLOOD OF THE ANCIENT BEHEMOTH DOES TO A SWEEP...
...BUT TO AN AUTOBOT...?
I AM NOT AN AUTOBOT
STRAFE! I ALREADY LOST BARRICADE!
I CAN'T LOSE YOU, TOO!
I
...AM...
...A...


...DINOBOT!
RAAGAHHHGH!

AAGH!
HELL YEAH.
AND YOU--
--YOU KILLED BARRICADE!
YOU KILLED YOUR OWN FUTURE!
NOT AT ALL.
MY FUTURE IS THE ONE I BUILD.
THE CORPSE OF CYBERTRON REBORN, SCREAMING FOREVER IN ETERNAL TORMENT.
EW
THIS IS FOR BARRICADE -
-FOR THE SPARKS!

NO—
THIS IS FOR BARR CADE
AND YOU I MEAN.
SLUG!
WHO. WHO WAS THAT?
JUST A RELIC..
"...A GUN LEFT OVER FROM A WAR
"...ONE THAT D DN'T KNOW WHEN IT WAS T ME TO STOP SHOOTING."
AND THEY NEVER FOUND HIS BODY
NOW THAT'S CLOSURE.
BUT MY SWEEPY FRIEND—
KCK
—YOU, I M SURE ARE DEAD
NOTHING!
IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING!
WE FOUGHT, WE CORRUPTED OUR PRINCIPLES -
-AND WE LOST EVERYTHING!

THAT'S—
WELL THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT GOES.
YOU WERE AFTER SOME KINDA BIG SCORE YOU WIN SOME, YOU LOSE SOME
I MEAN, SORRY ABOUT THE DEAD COP AND ALL
IT'S... IT'S MORE THAN THAT SWOOP
I SHOULDA TOLD YOU WHEN I SAW THEM, BUT THE TRANSPORT WAS CARRYING SPARKS
CAMIEN SPARKS.
SEE, CAMINUS HAS THE GOODS, BUT NOT THE ENERGY FOR THEM TO TAKE SEED CYBERTRON, AS MESSED UP AS IT IS, HAS ENERGON FLOWING THROUGH IT
TOGETHER... WE BECOME STRONGER THAN ALONE.
MAYBE.
MAYBE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMETHING
I GUESS IT'S—
SLUG, I HATE TO INTERRUPT A CLASSIC MOPE, BUT...
...WHAT'S THAT?
EH?

ALYON.
SPARKS.
DOZENS. HUNDREDS
LIFE.
LIFE RETURNED TO CYBERTRON ALL ON ITS OWN.
THE NEXT GENERATION OF CYBERTRONIANS.
...BLUDGEON MUST HAVE BEEN USING THE SPARKS TO EXPERIMENT ON TURBOFOXES AND SWEEPS.
HE WAS LINKING THEIR UN-ALIVE BODIES TO NOT-FULLY-FORMED SPARKS
BUT WE STOPPED HIM.
BARRICADE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THESE SPARKS.
IF I KNEW HIM AT ALL...

. HE'D SAY T WAS WORTH IT
CHANGING BACK IS GO NG TO HURT THE F RST T ME
BUT YOU GET USED TO T
SO MANY SPARKS.
YEAH.
I NEVER SEEN ANYTHING L KE T
RRRGH.
IT...
DOES HURT TO CHANGE.
BUT IT'S WORTH T
AND THAT'S THE STORY OF HOW THE DINOBOTS LEARNED WHAT A METAPHOR IS.
LOOK— THE BRIEFCASE OF MONEY SURVIVED!
THAT CREATURE BLUDGEON
D D HE CORRUPT THE SPARKFIELD?
ARE THE SPARKS EVIL BEFORE THEY'RE BORN?

NOBODY DESERVES JUDGEMENT BEFORE THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THEIR MISTAKES.
THANKS, SWOOP.
IT'S A LOTTA MONEY!
YEAH, AND IT'S YOURS, SWIFT.
WHAT?!
IT DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR BARRICADE, BUT THE DINOBOTS WON'T NEED IT.
STARSCREAM'S BADGELESS WILL HAVE CALLED FOR REINFORCEMENTS.
THE DINOBOTS KIDNAPPED YOU AND BARRICADE.
BARRICADE DIED PROTECTING CYBERTRON, AND YOU FOUND THE SPARKS.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THE DINOBOTS WENT.
AND YOU NEVER SAW US AGAIN, SWIFT.
WHAT ABOUT ME?
YOU'RE FREE TO GO BACK, STRAFE.
BACK TO IACON, BACK TO CAMINUS.
NOBODY THAT COULD RECOGNIZE YOU SURVIVED.
BUT SWOOP'S RIGHT.
BLUDGEON ISN'T DEAD.
IF I SURVIVED THE ENERGON, HE DID, TOO.
I WANT TO FIND WHERE THAT POOL DRAINS AND KILL HIM.
YEAH...

...THAT SOUNDS LIKE JUST THE THING DINOBOTS DO.
I WAS HAVING SOME TROUBLE...
...LIKE LOTS OF FOLKS.
SOME FRIENDS, A LITTLE HOPE, MAYBE FINDING SOMETHING TO DO...
...MAYBE IT'LL ALL KEEP ME OUT OF TROUBLE.
AT LEAST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
the end.

TRANSFORMERS REDEMPTION

Welcome back, Transformers fans!

Whether you read our thematic predecessor, *Punishment*, or are new to us, I hope you enjoyed this ride.

I call it a "thematic predecessor" because if you didn't read *Punishment*, you're not missing a ton of backstory. I mean, I think Livio and I are both extremely proud of *Punishment*, and the Dinobots play a big role in it, but this isn't a sequel in the sense of extending (or duplicating) that story. But there is a strong link in that *Punishment* was very downbeat, very morally gray… and I hope this one offers a little bit of hope.

Slug wasn't the villain in *Punishment* (uh, sorta spoiler alert) but he didn't come out clean. Optimus Prime called him out in a pretty rough way, and clearly that's eaten at him. He's at his lowest low as we start, and still sinking—willing to sell out anybody for a chance for a few dollars.

By the end, Slug's got at least one new ally, and a new attitude toward life. Is everything okay with the big guy? Hardly.

Anyway—hope you liked the origin of Strafe! Strafe appeared (unnamed) in *Combiner Wars* where Mairghread Scott, Livio, Sarah Stone, and I brought her in from the world of Caminus (Windblade's homeworld, if you haven't been reading). We're not done with her or with the Dinobots, so stay tuned!

(Incidentally, she's no relation to Strafe the Technobot, currently onboard the starship *Lost Light* in *More Than Meets the Eye*. Maybe the two Strafes can hang out with the two Tankors sometime).

Obvious inspiration was taken from the recent works of Mr. George Miller, but James Ellroy also played a big role of inspiring this—the endless depths to which people (including, here if not in Ellroy's books, Cybertronian people) will go to hurt one another and themselves. And the idea of somebody seeing a way out of it. I gotta say, when I pitched this idea to Livio at the grand opening ceremony of IDW's new headquarters (and museum) in Point Loma, I was giddy with excitement.

If you're reading the *Transformers* comic I write, you maybe recognized a scene here—if you want to see what happens to the Camiens from page one, their story is told in *Transformers* #46, the start of the "Conquerors" arc… which also follows up on those mysterious Camien settlers in the Sea of Rust. Everything is connected. Sara Pitre-Durocher draws "Conquerors" (she introduced those characters in the *Combiner Hunters* one-shot, written by Mairghread Scott), with my usual *Transformers* partner-in-crime Andrew Griffith on a very special chapter 3.

Between what we're cooking up in *Transformers*, what James Roberts and Alex Milne are doing in *More Than Meets the Eye*, what Nick Roche is debuting in *Sins of the Wreckers*, and what Mairghread and Sara are planning for the upcoming *Till All Are One* (following up on the just-completed *Windblade* series)… well, we've got some exciting Transformers stuff heading your way.

Anyway—didn't mean to get all hard-sell there. Hope you dug this one. And Livio and I hope we get to do some more!

Thanks

John

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